

Post 8/15/66

Vietnam War Protesters Begin Attack On HUAC as Hearing on Curbs Looms

Led by the aging pacifist patriarch, the Rev. A. J. Muste, and a Berkeley protester in an American Revolution uniform, a group of opponents of the Vietnam War landed in Washington yesterday and began their counter-attack on the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The committee has subpoenaed at least 13 critics of the war to testify at hearings starting Tuesday on a bill that would make it a criminal offense to interfere with troop movements, distribute propaganda affecting troop morale, or provide aid to hostile powers.

In a press conference at the Cannon House Office Building, three of those subpoenaed and more than a dozen protest leaders lashed out at United

States Vietnam policies and the HUAC hearings.

The three who said they have been summoned by the subcommittee identified themselves as Jerry Rubin, cofounder of Berkeley's Vietnam Day Committee; J. Windrim Smith, a member of that group; and George Ewart, a representative of the Progressive Labor Party, a militant Marxist-Leninist organization.

Rubin, who said he plans to wear his 1776 uniform at the HUAC hearings, declared, "America was born in revolution, but today does violence to her own past by denying the right of others to revolution."

Rubin said that his subpoena had made him a hero at Berkeley, and stated that he would answer the subcommittee's questions.

Progressive Labor's Ewart said that he would "answer questions as fully as possible, but refuse to testify against friends and comrades."

All of those subpoenaed said they would not demonstrate within the hearing room.

Muste, 81-year-old chairman of the Committee for Non-violent Action, said the HUAC hearings are an attempt to divide the peace movement, and charged that the committee had subpoenaed only the most militant protesters in an effort to discredit all war critics.

The anti-war groups plan a week of Washington demonstrations to coincide with the HUAC hearings, starting Monday with a rally at Dupont Circle and including a Tuesday afternoon march on the White House.